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A PUBLICATION FUND.

THE attention of members of The American Folk-Lore Society, and other persons interested in folk-lore, is called to the plan for a Publication Fund, announced at the Annual Meeting, and printed in the account of proceedings. It is to be hoped that an appeal issued by authority so respectable, may not be allowed to pass unheeded. A society which now stands on a satisfactory basis should do something more toward the elucidation of the subject in which it is interested than can be accomplished by the pages of a quarterly journal. An opportunity of this sort constitutes a privilege, and the neglect of such an opportunity would be a discredit.

The interesting investigations of the last few years have shown that Zuñis and Mokis, at least, possess a religious belief and ceremonial which is essentially pre-Columbian. The extraordinary spectacle of a religion which, according to its principal conceptions, is older and more primitive than those revealed by Egyptian and Assyrian monuments, creates an eager desire for the possession of material available for comparison. Many of the fields from which such information might be expected are almost unexplored. For example, in the direction of aboriginal folk-lore, Central America and South America have scarcely been touched. A little encouragement might well promote useful investigations, and secure the record of matter which otherwise would be lost.

Apart from long monographs, some means are necessary for the encouragement of less extensive inquiries. The editor of a journal of folk-lore finds that small sums will often forward the prosecution of useful studies which would otherwise not be entered upon. There are apt to be some expenses attending such studies, which a trifling return would reassure.

What is needed is an income available for immediate expenditure. This may be secured, either by obtaining a sufficient number of annual subscribers, as the plan proposes, or by larger contributions, which the committee will be glad to apply to the purpose indicated.